

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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R 241100Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4347

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0093

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, WA

SUBJECT: CLOSING OF ANGLICAN HOSPITALS IN OVAMBOLAND

REF: A) STATE 27538; B) CAPE TOWN 0900

1. DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) HAS RESPONDED TO OUR INQUIRY CONCERNING CLOSURE OF HOSPITALS IN ODIBO AND OSHANDI AND THREATENED CLOSURE OF HIGH SCHOOL IN ODIBO. DFA OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SWA AFFAIRS SAYS SWA AUTHORITIES HAD CONDUCTED AUDIT AT HOSPITALS AND FOUND CERTAIN "BOOKKEEPING IRREGULARITIES." IN ADDITION, THEY DETERMINED THAT THERE WAS "UNSATISFACTORY MEDICAL SUPERVISION" AT THE HOSPITALS. HE SAID THAT FOR THESE REASONS SWA ADMINISTRATION WITHDREW ITS REGISTRATION OF HOSPITALS. GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL SUBSIDIES ALSO WITHDRAWN AND AS A RESULT THE HOSPITALS WERE UNABLE TO REMAIN OPEN.

2. DFA OFFICER DENIED THAT THERE ANY OTHER MOTIVE BEHIND SITHDRAWAL OF REGISTRATION. HE ASSERTED THAT CLOSING OF HOSPITALS DID NOT MEAN THAT PEOPLE IN AREA HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF MEDICAL FACILITIES. HE SAID STATE HOSPITAL AT OSHAKATI

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CLOSE TO ONE OF THE HOSPITALS AND THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER

OF OUTPATIENT CLINICS IN VICINITY OF BOTH HOSPITALS.

3. HE SAID AUTHORITIES HAD NOT RPT NOT THREATENED TO CLOSE HIGH SCHOOL AT ODIBO. ACCORDING TO HIM, HIGH SCHOOL'S TROUBLE IS WHOLLY INTERNAL IN THAT SCHOOL TEACHERS WERE SO UNHAPPY ABOUT LEVEL OF SALARIES ANGLICAN MISSION WAS PAYING THEM THAT THEY SAID THEY MIGHT QUIT. HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER SCHOOL OPENED THIS TERM, WHICH HAS JUST BEGUN. HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY ANGLICAN CHURCH SOURCE IN WINDHOEK THAT SCHOOL OPENED.

4. ANGLICANS' FEAR THAT SCHOOL WAS GOING TO BE CLOSED WAS BASED ON ADVERSE REPORT ON QUALIFICATIONS OF STAFF WHICH HAD BEEN MADE BY INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS. SWA ADMINISTRATION HAD MADE NO DIRECT THREAT TO CLOSE IT. ANGLICAN SOURCE ADMITTED SALARIES ARE A PROBLEM BECAUSE CHURCH UNABLE PAY NEARLY AS MUCH AS GOVT SCHOOLS, BUT SAID SCHOOL HAS FULL STAFF OF TEACHERS AND HAS HIRED A QUALIFIED HEADMASTER TO REPLACE MAN WHO LEFT SUDDENLY LAST YEAR TO JOIN THOSE OVAMBOS WHO FLED ACROSS BORDER.
HURD

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